

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01

AID-20 DRC-01 EUR-25 /177 W
----- 060678

R 100827Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9113
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 12048

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,ID

SUBJECT: INDON REACTION TO ME WAR

SUMMARY: GOI REACTION TO RENEWED WAR IN ME HAS
CONSISTED OF ONE MILDLY PRO-ARAB STATEMENT. STRUGGLE
IS GETTING HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE AND EXPRESSIONS
OF SYMPATHY FROM SOME ACTIVIST MOSLEM LEADERS. ALL IN
ALL, REACTION ABOUT AS EXPECTED.

1. ONLY OFFICIAL GOI STATEMENT ON ME WAR THUS FAR WAS
BRIEF STATEMENT OF CONCERN OCT 8 FROM FOREIGN DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN. HE BLAMED OUTBREAK ON ISRAELI RELUCTANCE
TO SETTLE CRISIS ON BASIS OF 1967 UN RESOLUTION. IN
RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUESTION SPOKESMAN SAID HE
DID'T KNOW WHAT IF ANY PROPOSALS OR ACTIONS INDONESIA
WOULD TAKE REGARDING ME SINCE MALIK IS CURRENTLY AT UN.

2. CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT COMMISSION I (DEFENSE AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS) IMRON ROSYADI TOLD PRES THAT OUT-
BREAK WAS RESULT OF ISRAELI STUBBORNNESS AND
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(ACCORDING ANTARA) SAID INDONESIA WOULD TRY TO HELP

ARAB CAUSE AT UN. (ROSYADI IS FORMER LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC PARTY NU.)

3. VARIOUS ISLAMIC FIGURES FROM BOTH MODERNIST AND CONSERVATIVE CAMPS HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS SUPPORTING MOSLEM CAUSE, INCLUDING LUKMAN HARUN (EX-MASJUMI YOUTH LEADER FROM MOSLEM SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE), MOH. NATSIR (FORMER MASJUMI PRIME MINISTER) AND ACHMAD SJAICHU (EX-SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT FROM PARTY NU WHO IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION BASED IN JAKARTA.)

4. CHIEFS OF MISSION OF FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES (EGYPT, SYRIA, IRAQ, SAUDIA ARABIA AND ALGERIA) HELD EMOTIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE OCT 9 ALLEGING TOTAL ISLAMIC UNITY IN NEW CRISIS (JORDAN AND EVEN IRAN INVOLVED, ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR) AND THANKING MALIK AND SUHARTO FOR PAST EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR (AS QUOTED IN NUSANTARA), FAILURE IN THIS ROUND MIGHT MEAN THE END OF ISLAM.

5. MAJOR NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE DEVOTED TO STRUGGLE, WITH MOST EDITORIAL COVERAGE DEVOTED TO STRUGGLE, WITH MOST EDITORIALS MINGLING BLAND HOPES FOR SETTLEMENT WITH VARYING DEGREES OF PRO-ARAB COMMENT. ISLAMIC COMMENTATORS GENERALLY ENCOURAGED BY APPARENT ARAB UNITY AND INITIAL MILITARY SUCCESSES.

6. COMMENT: GOI REACTION THUS FAR IN LINE WITH TRADITIONAL GOI STANCE ON ME. PUBLIC REACTION REFLECTS SYMPATHY FOR ARABS TEMPERED BY ESSENTIAL DISINTEREST EXCEPT ON PART OF ACTIVIST ISLAMIC MINORITY. FACED WITH ABUNDANCE OF TROUBLES AT HOME, EVEN THEY HAVE SOME TROUBLE RELATING TO EVENTS SO FAR AWAY.
GALBRAITH

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